

Docket # HHD-CV-16-6070508- S

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EX REL. GEORGE JEPSEN,
ATTORNEY GENERAL

: SUPERIOR COURT

V.

:
: JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HARTFORD

ALPHAH EAST

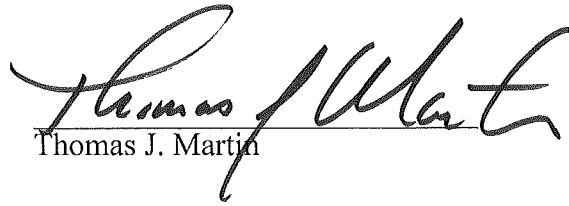
:
: MARCH 22, 2017

AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS J. MARTIN

Thomas J. Martin, having been duly sworn, states as follows:

1. I am over eighteen years of age and understand the meaning of an oath.
2. I am an Investigator for the State of Connecticut Office of the Attorney General.
3. As such, I collected the below listed documents related to the following case on file in the Connecticut Superior Court: *State of Connecticut v. Alphah East*, FST-CR10-0124859T.


All documents are attached collectively as Exhibit A hereto.
 - a. Original Information form JD-CR-71
 - b. State of Connecticut, Division of Criminal Justice - Report of Investigation
 - c. Form JD-CR-66 Order of Probation
 - d. Form JD-CR-38 Mittimus
 - e. Uniform Arrest Report
4. I obtained a Transcript of Plea Hearing dated March 22, 2016, which is attached as Exhibit B hereto.
5. I obtained a Transcript of Sentencing Hearing dated June 7, 2016, which is attached as Exhibit C hereto.


Thomas J. Martin

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
)
COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

ss: Hartford

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Hartford, Connecticut this the 22nd day of March,
2017.



Gary M. Becker
Commissioner of the Superior Court

EXHIBIT A

to

AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS J. MARTIN

ORIGINAL INFORMATION:

COURT DATE:

AT:

YES

01/12/2010

GA20 - NORWALK

DISPOSITION DATE: 6/7/16

DOCKET NO.: FST -CR10-0124859-T

The undersigned Prosecuting Authority of the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut charges that

EAST ALPHAH H

69 ANNS FARM ROAD, HAMDEN, CT 06030

Did commit the offenses recited below:

Count: 1 BRIBE RECEIVING Type/Class: F/C At: NORWALK
On or About: 01/11/2010 In Violation Of CGS/PA No: 53a-148*STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
RECORDS CENTER

MAR 21 2017

CERTIFIED COPY

BY
TITLESEE OTHER SHEETS
FOR ADDITIONAL COUNTS

DATE

SIGNED (PROSECUTING AUTHORITY)

COURT ACTION

DEFENDANT ADVISED OF RIGHTS BEFORE PLEA

(JUDGE)	(DATE)	BOND \$75000	SURETY PS	<input type="checkbox"/> CASH	ELECTION <input type="checkbox"/> COURT <input type="checkbox"/> JURY
<input type="checkbox"/> ATTY. <input type="checkbox"/> PUB. DEFENDER	GUARDIAN	REDUCTION	B.O.	APPEAL	ELECTION WITHDRAWN DATE <input type="checkbox"/> SEIZED PROPERTY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

COUNT NO.	PLEA DATE	PLEA	PLEA WITHDRAWN DATE	NEW PLEA	VERDICT FINDING	FINE	JAIL	ADDITIONAL DISPOSITION
1	03/05/10	NG	03/22/16	GY	GY			5 YEARS ELSA 18 MONTHS 3 YEARS PROBATION FLW

DATE	OTHER COURT ACTION	JUDGE	CONTINUANCES
6/7/16	Pardon Notice Given	CAMERFORT	DATE PURPOSE REASON
	RESTITUTION OF \$13,500, SUB		1.
	DRUG EVAL + TREAT, RANDOM		2.
	URINES, PSYCHOLOGICAL + PSYCHIATRIC		3.
	EVAL + TREAT, TAKE ALL MEDICATIONS,		4.
	NO CONTACT WITH VICTIM OR VICTIM'S		5.
	FAMILY		6.
			7.
			8.
			9.
			10.

FINE PAID

RECEIPT NO.

MITTIMUS DATE

TRIAL TOWN

☐ SEE REVERSE
SIDE

PROSECUTOR ON ORIGINAL DISPOSITION

REPORTER ON ORIGINAL DISPOSITION

SIGNED CLERK

SIGNED JUDGE

KEVIN SHAY

BETSYA

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT

DOB: 1977

ORIGINAL INFORMATION:

COURT DATE:

AT:

YES

01/12/2010

GA20 - NORWALK

DISPOSITION DATE:

DOCKET NO.: FST -CR10-0124859-T

The undersigned Prosecuting Authority of the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut charges that

EAST ALPHA H

69 ANNS FARM ROAD, HAMDEN, CT 00000

Did commit the offenses recited below:

Count: 1 BRIBE RECEIVING Type/Class: F/C At: NORWALK
On or About: 01/11/2010 In Violation Of CGS/PA No: 53a-148*

SEE OTHER SHEETS FOR ADDITIONAL COUNTS	DATE	SIGNED (PROSECUTING AUTHORITY)
---	------	--------------------------------

COURT ACTION									
DEFENDANT ADVISED OF RIGHTS BEFORE PLEA (JUDGE) <i>Cumtard</i> (DATE) <i>2.5.10</i>				BOND \$75000		SURETY		ELECTION <input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> COURT <input type="checkbox"/> JURY	
<input type="checkbox"/> ATTY. <input type="checkbox"/> PUB. DEFENDER				GUARDIAN		REDUCTION		B.O. APPEAL	
								<input type="checkbox"/> ELECTION WITHDRAWN DATE <input type="checkbox"/> SEIZED PROPERTY	

COUNT NO.	PLEA DATE	PLEA	PLEA WITHDRAWN DATE	NEW PLEA	VERDICT FINDING	FINE	JAIL	ADDITIONAL DISPOSITION
1	3/5/10	M/16	3/22/16	G4	G4			Cap 5 years els 2 years to serve right to appeal 3 years probation

DATE	OTHER COURT ACTION	JUDGE	CONTINUANCES
3/22/16	PLEA MADE KNOWINGLY, INTELLIGENTLY & VOLUNTARILY WITH UNDERSTANDING OF FACTUAL BASIS OF CRIME CHARGED AND THE ADVICE OF COMPETENT COUNSEL	<i>Cumtard</i> White	1. 3.5.10 P
	Immigration warning given; PSI ordered;		2. 4/5/10
	DNA ADVISEMENT GIVEN		3. 4/9 X
	Restitution \$13,500; Agreed upon		4. 4/23 X
	Sentence is Cap 5 years els 2 years to serve w/ right to appeal, 3 years probation		5. 1/13/11 X
			6.
			7.
			8.
			9.
			10.

FINE PAID	RECEIPT NO.	MITTINUS DATE	TRIAL TOWN	SEE REVERSE SIDE
PROSECUTOR ON ORIGINAL DISPOSITION		REPORTER ON ORIGINAL DISPOSITION		SIGNED CLERK
				SIGNED JUDGE

ORIGINAL INFORMATION:

COURT DATE:

AT:

YES

01/12/2010

GA20 - NORWALK

DISPOSITION DATE:

DOCKET NO.: **S20N-CR10-0124859-S**

The undersigned Prosecuting Authority of the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut charges that

EAST ALPHA H

69 ANNS FARM ROAD, HAMDEN, CT 00000

Did commit the offenses recited below:

Count: 1 BRIBE RECEIVING Type/Class: F/C At: NORWALK
On or About: 01/11/2010 In Violation Of CGS/PA No: 53a-148*

SEE OTHER SHEETS FOR ADDITIONAL COUNTS		DATE		SIGNED (PROSECUTING AUTHORITY)							
COURT ACTION											
DEFENDANT ADVISED OF RIGHTS BEFORE PLEA (JUDGE) Hudock (DATE) 1.12.10				BOND \$12,000 SECURITY 75,000 ok.		<input type="checkbox"/> CASH		ELECTION <input type="checkbox"/> COURT <input type="checkbox"/> JURY			
<input type="checkbox"/> ATTY. <input type="checkbox"/> PUB. DEFENDER		GUARDIAN		REDUCTION		B.O.		APPEAL <input type="checkbox"/>			
								ELECTION WITHDRAWN DATE <input type="checkbox"/> SEIZED PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>			
COUNT NO.	PLEA DATE	PLEA	PLEA WITHDRAWN DATE NEW PLEA		VERDICT FINDING	FINE	JAIL	ADDITIONAL DISPOSITION			
1											
DATE		OTHER COURT ACTION					JUDGE		CONTINUANCES		
1.12.10		Atty Ford - Bond only Hudock. P.C. fund. Cond. of Bond							DATE PURPOSE REASON 1.2.5.10P		
		- no contact w/ michelle Laurita							2.		
		or her father.							3.		
		Transfer to Pert A stamford.							4.		
									5.		
									6.		
									7.		
									8.		
									9.		
									10.		
FINE PAID		RECEIPT NO.		MITTIMUS DATE		TRIAL TOWN				<input type="checkbox"/> SEE REVERSE SIDE	
PROSECUTOR ON ORIGINAL DISPOSITION			REPORTER ON ORIGINAL DISPOSITION			SIGNED CLERK			SIGNED JUDGE		



DCJ 60.1 1/88 E

State of Connecticut
Division of Criminal Justice
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

CASE#	SP09-116
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FILE TITLE	INSPECTOR	UNIT
Alpha East		Financial Crimes Bureau

CROSS FILE	
REPORT RE	REPORT REQUESTED BY
Bribe Receiving	
INITIAL: STATUS OF CASE; 1=ACTIVE 2= CLEARED ARREST 3=SUSPENDED 4=FUGITIVE 5=NO CRIMINAL ASPECT 6=CLOSED ENTER CODE >	
SUPPLEMENTAL: STATUS OF CASE; 1=ACTIVE 2= CLEARED ARREST 3=SUSPENDED 4=CIVIL 5=FUGITIVE 6=NO CRIMINAL ASPECT 7=CLOSED ENTER CODE> 1	

PERSONS: CODES - V=VICTIM S=SUSPECT C=COMPLAINANT W=WITNESS B=BUSINESS A=ARRESTEE K=ALIAS O=OTHER

CODE	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M	SX	DOB	TELEPHONE	ADDRESS
A	EAST	Alphah	H	M	- /1977		69 Anns Farm Road, Hamden, CT 06518

ACTION TAKEN:

On 01/11/2010 I was asked to assist in the investigation of alleged bribe receiving by a State of Connecticut Probation Officer. The complainant in this matter was interviewed by Inspector J. Bannan and me on 01/11/2010. Mr. Joseph Laurita reported that his daughter's probation officer, Alphah East, has asked him for money on numerous occasions during the last six months. Laurita has complied with East's requests for these "loans," none of which have been repaid, and has issued East \$13,500.00 in seven personal checks. Of late, Laurita has come to the realization that he is being fleeced by East, and is unwilling to give him any more money. Laurita further stated that during one of East's recent requests for an additional \$5,000.00 he intimated that he could actually get the remainder of Michelle Laurita's probation canceled. Inspector Bannan formulated a plan to monitor a meeting between Laurita and East whereupon the request for money could be recorded.

I met the complainant and other Inspectors of the Division of Criminal Justice at the Norwalk Police Department at 7:00 PM on 01/11/2010. After briefing the Norwalk officers assisting us, we traveled to Starbucks at 56 Westport Avenue in Norwalk. I was fitted with a covert video camera/recorder and took a seat in the coffee shop where I would be able to observe the meeting. Laurite and East arrived at approximately 8:00 PM and sat at a nearby table. I could observe the conversation and heard the pair speaking to each other. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Laurita gave the prearranged signal indicating that East had accepted the check and verbalized what he intended to do for Mr. Laurita and his daughter. East was taken into custody in the Starbucks parking lot as he prepared to leave. After East was secured we located Laurita's check on the center console of East's

SIGNATURE (INSPECTOR)	DATE	REVIEWED (NAME AND TITLE)	DATE
	01/11/2010		01/11/10

Subscribed and Sworn to before me, a Notary Public, in and for County of FAIRFIELD
and State of Connecticut, this 11 day of January, 2010

Notary Public

DCJ SENSITIVE
Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice
THIS REPORT IS CONFIDENTIAL
Neither it nor its contents may be disseminated outside the
Agency to which loaned.



DCJ 60.1 1/98 E

State of Connecticut
Division of Criminal Justice
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

CASE#	SP09-116
-------	----------

FILE TITLE	INSPECTOR	UNIT
Alpha East		Financial Crimes Bureau

vehicle.

East was transported to Norwalk PD HQ for processing. I accompanied Mr. Laurita back to police HQ where he was debriefed. Laurita stated that when they first sat down East spent a few minutes complaining about his money trouble and impending divorce. After a few minutes, Laurita presented East with the \$5,000.00 check that East had requested earlier. Laurita reported that he then told East that he had provided all of the funds that he had been asked for in the past, but this would be the last payment that he would provide to East. East reportedly told Laurita that he understood and that he had been great and had always been timely with his payments. Laurita said that he then told East that he now needed to know what East was going to do for him. East reportedly said "100%" that he was going to get Michelle's probation canceled and added that he would tell Laurita how he was going to do it. East went on to explain that his friend, John Thigherson, whose home address in Norwalk was used as the destination of some of East's mailed payments, is an attorney who is very friendly with a judge. The judge supposedly would cancel the remainder of Michelle's probation upon receiving a letter of request from Thigherson. East added that they had to move fast, however, and this needed to be done right away. Laurita told East that he could do this as quickly as he liked. They reportedly continued to chat for a few more minutes, then Laurita said that he had to leave. Laurita gave me the prearranged signal as they walked towards the rear door together. Laurita told East that he had left something in the lavatory and returned to the front of the store. Inspectors and Norwalk officers took East into custody as he prepared to leave the parking lot.

SIGNATURE (INSPECTOR)	DATE	REVIEWED (NAME AND TITLE)	DATE
	01/11/2010	 Charles E. Coffey, Superv. Insp.	01/11/10

Subscribed and Sworn to before me, a Notary Public, in and for County of FAIRFIELD
and State of Connecticut, this 11th day of January, 2010

Notary Public

DCJ SENSITIVE
Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice
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ORDER OF PROBATION

JD-CR-66 Rev. 5-14
C.G.S. §§ 18-78, 53a-29, 30,
31, 32, 33, 54-260

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
www.jud.ct.gov



Instructions to Clerk

1. One form per docket number (Use for original Order of Probation only, not for Violation of Probation/Revocation/Modification/Termination or Extension).
2. Original and one copy to CSSD Probation - Attach copy of Information Sheet.
3. One copy in court file.

TO: The Defendant named below

ADA NOTICE

The Judicial Branch of the State of Connecticut complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation in accordance with the ADA, contact a court clerk or an ADA contact person listed at www.jud.ct.gov/ADA.

From (Judicial district or Geographical area number) JD Stamford/Norwalk	At (Town) Stamford	Judge ordering probation Comerford	Docket number FSTCR100124859T
Name of defendant Alphah East			Date sentenced 06/07/2016

Count	Connecticut General Statute Number	Sentence	Probation	Term	
1	53a-148*	5 years e/s/a 18 months	3 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Consecutive To Count: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concurrent
2				<input type="checkbox"/> Consecutive To Count: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concurrent
3				<input type="checkbox"/> Consecutive To Count: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concurrent
4				<input type="checkbox"/> Consecutive To Count: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concurrent

☐ See attached sheet(s) for additional counts.

Order of Probation

This docket number's total effective sentence 5 years e/s/a 18 months to serve, 3 years probation.	Probation begins immediately upon sentencing in any sentence that includes a period of probation that does not include a period of incarceration.
--	---

Note if Consecutive/Concurrent to any other sentence and, if so, list docket numbers

Notice to Defendant

You have been convicted/adjudicated of the crime(s) stated above and are sentenced to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction or the Commissioner's agent for the term described above, execution suspended as shown above, subject to an order of probation for the period specified above.

During your period of probation, if you do not follow the order below, the Court may issue a warrant for your arrest, revoke your probation and require you to serve the above sentence, or change the term or the conditions of your probation.

If you were convicted of certain class C, D or E felonies or an unclassified felony and your sentence is probation for more than 2 years, or if you were convicted of a class A or B misdemeanor and your sentence is probation for more than 1 year, your probation officer will file a report with the court not later than 60 days before you complete 2 years of probation for the felony or 1 year of probation for the misdemeanor. If you have been sentenced to more than one period of probation, all of your probations will be reviewed on the latest review date. The probation officer will recommend either that you stay on probation or that your probation end.

(Connecticut General Statute 53a-32)

It is ordered and adjudged that:

- a. Execution of sentence be suspended to the extent shown above and you, the defendant, be placed on probation under the supervision of the Court Support Services Division/Probation, for the period of probation shown above.
- b. During your probationary term you must follow the written statement of the conditions of probation given to you by the probation officer and the instructions given about the conditions.
- c. You must also follow these conditions of probation and any conditions that are given to you by the Court Support Services Division/Probation (C.G.S. § 53a-30(b)):
 1. You must immediately notify your supervision officer whenever you change your residence address if you have been convicted of a violation of injury or risk of injury to, or impairing morals of, children (C.G.S. § 53-21); sexual assault in the first degree (C.G.S. § 53a-70); aggravated sexual assault in the first degree (C.G.S. § 53a-70a); sexual assault in spousal or cohabiting relationship (C.G.S. § 53a-70b); sexual assault in the second degree (C.G.S. § 53a-71); sexual assault in the third degree (C.G.S. § 53a-72a); and sexual assault in the third degree with a firearm (C.G.S. § 53a-72b).
 2. If you are ordered by Court Support Services/Probation to take part in a residential sex offender treatment program that is on the grounds of a Department of Correction facility and the residential sex offender facility becomes unusable as a result of unforeseen circumstances, you can be detained in a Department of Correction facility for a reasonable period of time while alternate arrangements for your treatment are being made.

Additional Conditions/Orders of Probation:

Restitution of \$13,500, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, random urines, psychological and psychiatric evaluation and treatment, take all medications, no contact with victim or victim's family.

☐ See attached sheet(s) for additional conditions/orders.

Signed (Clerk)

By Order of the Court

Date signed
06/07/2016

Distribution: Original and Copy 1 - CSSD Probation Copy 2 - Court File

MITTIMUS

JD-CR-38 Rev. 1-15

C.G.S. §§ 18-63, 18-65, 18-65a, 18-73, 18-76, 18-82,
54-2a, 54-64b, 54-92a, 54-96b, 54-97, 54-98
P.B. §§ 43-17 to 43-20, 44-10, 44-10A

- ☒ Judgment ☐ Continuance
☐ Failure to meet conditions of release
under § 54-2a

INSTRUCTIONS TO CLERK

Prepare a separate Mittimus for each file.

TO OFFICER

Original to receiving facility; return copy to court.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
www.jud.ct.gov

TO: Any Proper Officer

Date of disposition

06/07/2016

Docket number FSTCR100124859T	Name of defendant Alphah East	Date of birth 1/1977	Date sentence to begin (if different)
Name and location of receiving facility BCC		Inmate number (if available)	Name and location of Court JD Stamford/Norwalk, 123 Hoyt St., Stamford, CT 06905
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crime(s) Convicted <input type="checkbox"/> Crime(s) Charged	1st Count - Statute number 53a-148*	Date of offense 01/11/2010	2nd Count - Statute number
	3rd Count - Statute number	Date of offense	4th Count - Statute number
	5th Count - Statute number	Date of offense	6th Count - Statute number

Whereas by a judgment of said court, said defendant was convicted of the above crime(s) and sentenced to imprisonment as follows:

Counts and Terms (If execution of portion of sentence is suspended, show only time to be served.)

First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Total Effective Sentence
18 months						18 months to serve

Specify here any pertinent conditions, if sentences are consecutive and if probation was ordered.

TES: 5 years e/s/a 18 months to serve, 3 years probation.

Restitution of \$13,500, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, random urines, psychological and psychiatric evaluation and treatment, take all medications, no contact with victim or victim's family.

(If a person under the age of 21 receives a reformatory sentence in accordance with section 18-65a or 18-73 of the General Statutes, in no event shall the term be longer than either the maximum term of imprisonment for the crime(s) committed or for a term of more than five (5) years.)

- ☐ And said defendant pay to the State of Connecticut the amount of fines now unpaid as shown below and be committed to the above facility in default of payment of said fines. (A defendant may not be incarcerated for failing to pay fees or costs.)

Counts and Fines (Show only unpaid portion of fines)

First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Total Unpaid Balance

- ☐ The Defendant is entitled to sentence credit of _____

- ☐ The foregoing credit includes _____ days of credit for pretrial confinement at a police or courthouse lockup.

Transfer or Continuance

Whereas it is ordered that said case be continued and/or transferred for future proceedings before said court.

- ☐ Defendant to appear by interactive audiovisual device. (As permitted by Practice Book §§ 44-10 and 44-10A.)

To be held at (Name and address of court)	<input type="checkbox"/> Judicial District	On (Date)	Surety bond amount
	<input type="checkbox"/> Geographical Area		

Order

BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, you are hereby commanded to deliver said defendant to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and/or the Warden or Administrator at the above facility and said Commissioner and/or Warden or Administrator is hereby commanded to receive and keep said defendant for the period fixed by said order or judgment of the court or until legally discharged, provided that when a defendant has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine, if the fine has not been paid by the time the sentence has been served, the defendant may not continue to be incarcerated unless the judicial authority has found that the defendant is able to pay the fine and that the defendant's nonpayment is wilful.

Signed (Assistant Clerk)

By Order of the Court

On (Date)

06/07/2016

Acknowledgment of Delivery of Defendant

I delivered said defendant into the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and/or his agent and left this mittimus with him.

Name and location of receiving facility

Receiving facility time stamp

Title of delivering officer

Signature of delivering officer

Signature of receiving officer

NAME OF ACCUSED (Last, First, Middle) East Aionan					UNIFORM ARREST REPORT JD-CR-2 rev. 12/05					2036533 ON				
NO., STREET, CITY AND STATE 69 Ames Farm Road Hamden CT					FPC					COMPANION U.A.R. NO.				
SEX M	RACE B	HISP. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	DATE OF BIRTH 1-17-77	PLACE OF BIRTH Hamden CT	SOCIAL SECURITY NO. ---	HT. 5'11"	WT. 210	HAIR BLK	EYES BLU	DOCKET NO. CR10-124859				
ALIAS/MAIDEN NAME			ALIEN REG. NO.		OPERATOR'S LICENSE NO. (MV/Boat) 127 908259 CT				STATE CT		DATE AND TIME ARRESTED 11/11/10 8:00 PM			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SURETY		AMOUNT OF BOND \$100,000.00		<input type="checkbox"/> CASH		COMMERCIAL/HAZ. MAT.		TOWN OF ARREST Norwalk		TOWN OF OFFENSE Norwalk				
<input type="checkbox"/> DETAINED		<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		<input type="checkbox"/> CDL		<input type="checkbox"/> CV		<input type="checkbox"/> HM						
CHARGE(S) AND STATUTE NO. Bribe receiving 11/11/10					DATE/TIME OF OFFENSE 5:30 - 148 3:00 PM		F.V. ALC. NAR. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		COURT DATE 11/22/10		S.P.B.I. NO.			
							G.A. NO. 20		DATE FINGERPRINTED 11/11/10		F.B.I. NO.			
ARRESTING OFFICER Det. Z. G. ...			SHIELD NO. 1111		SIGNATURE OF ACCUSED X				SIGNED - OFFICIAL TAKING PRINTS					
DEPARTMENT OR TROOP (ORI.) CT CCSA		MOT. VEH. <input type="checkbox"/> YES BOAT <input type="checkbox"/> YES REG. #		P.D. ID NO.		P.D. CASE NO. SP05-116		NOTE AMP						

COURT ORIGINAL

EXHIBIT B

to

AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS J. MARTIN

NO: FST-CR100124859T; : SUPERIOR COURT
FST-CR100170818T:
STATE OF CONNECTICUT : G.A. # 1
V. : AT STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
ALPHAH EAST : MARCH 22, 2016

P L E A

BEFORE THE HONORABLE GARY WHITE, JUDGE

A P P E A R A N C E S:

Representing the State of Connecticut:

ATTORNEY KEVIN SHAY
Chief State's Attorney
300 Corporate Place
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Representing the Defendant:

ATTORNEY DANIEL FORD
167 Old Post Road
Southport, CT 06890

Recorded By:
Lisa Franchina

Transcribed By:
Linda Vanek
Court Recording Monitor
17 Belden Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850

1 THE COURT: Good afternoon. You can be seated.
2 Thank you.

3 ATTY. SHAY: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

4 ATTY. FORD: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Good afternoon. Yes, counsel?

6 ATTY. FORD: Your Honor, at this time we've
7 reached an agreement with the State.

8 If all prior pleas and elections can be
9 withdrawn?

10 THE COURT: All right. Before we go forward, I
11 understand that the agreement between the State and
12 defense is a cap. It's five, suspended after two,
13 with a right to argue. Three years' probation. With
14 restitution in the amount of?

15 ATTY. SHAY: \$13,500.

16 THE COURT: \$13,500. Mr. East, I'm going to
17 order a presentence investigation report. And once
18 that's prepared, Judge Comerford's going to do the
19 sentencing.

20 He's going to review the report. He's going to
21 hear remarks from the State, and your lawyer, and
22 you, if you wish. Others, if you wish. And then
23 he's going to decide on a sentence.

24 So you can get anywhere from, as I indicated,
25 five years, suspended after two years' in jail, to
26 serve, with a period of probation, and the
27 restitution amount, down to nothing, actually, an

1 unconditional discharge.

2 If you get a sentence within that range I just
3 mentioned, you have to accept that.

4 If the Court reads the presentence report and
5 decides the agreement's inappropriate, then the Court
6 doesn't have to impose the sentence. You can take
7 back your plea and have a trial.

8 Do you understand what I told you?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Do you have any questions about it?

11 THE DEFENDANT: I do not.

12 THE COURT: And you've had time to talk to your
13 lawyer about it?

14 THE DEFENDANT: I did, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: And the matter was scheduled for a
16 trial. I understand that you actually started
17 selecting jurors today. And there's not going to be
18 a trial if you enter a guilty plea. Do you
19 understand that?

20 THE DEFENDANT: I do, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: And do you still want to go forward?

22 THE DEFENDANT: I do, yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Put him to plea, Mr. Shay.

24 ATTY. SHAY: Yes, Your Honor. Alphah East, in
25 docket number CR-10-0124859, to the single count of
26 the amended long form information charging you with
27 the bribe receiving, in violation of Connecticut

1 General Statutes 53a-148(a), of the Connecticut
2 General Statutes, how do you plead, guilty or not
3 guilty?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

5 ATTY. SHAY: Your Honor, facts in this matter,
6 at all times relevant, the defendant was employed by
7 the State of Connecticut, as a Probation Officer,
8 with the Office of Adult Probation.

9 During his service, he was assigned to the
10 matter of Michelle Lareda (phonetic).

11 Michelle was an individual who had pled guilty
12 and been sentenced on some drug charges, and she was
13 on probation. Mr. East was her probation officer for
14 a period of time.

15 In the course of that relationship, Mr. East got
16 to know the probationer's father, Joseph Lareda. And
17 during the course of their relationship, Mr. East
18 accepted \$13,500 from Mr. Lareda, in the form of
19 seven checks.

20 Then, on January 11, 2010, the -- Mr. Lareda,
21 with police officers present, and unbeknownst to the
22 defendant, he called the defendant, where they
23 arranged to meet at Starbucks later in that day,
24 around 8:00 p.m., where Mr. Lareda would give him one
25 last check in the amount of \$5,000.

26 Mr. Lareda asked him, during the course of this
27 phone conversation, essentially what he was going to

1 do for him. He said -- he reminded him, you know,
2 you made promises in the past, and Michelle is still
3 on probation. Are you still in a position to take
4 care of this?

5 And Mr. East indicated that yes, in his own
6 words, he was still in the driver's seat. Still had
7 the job. Could take care of things. And Mr. Lareda
8 asked for clarification.

9 They were talking about having her probation
10 terminated. To which Mr. East replied, absolutely
11 taken care of.

12 Later that evening, at 8:00, the appointed time,
13 the two did meet at the Starbucks in Norwalk where,
14 again, there was a discussion.

15 According to Mr. Lareda, they talked about the
16 issues that were discussed on the phone conversation
17 earlier, about making sure that Michelle's probation
18 would be terminated.

19 And he handed him a check for \$5,000, which was
20 subsequently recovered from the defendant's vehicle,
21 in the parking lot of Starbucks, by police officers,
22 incident to arrest.

23 So it is the -- those are the facts, Your Honor,
24 underlying the charge.

25 THE COURT: All right. Mr. East, I have some
26 questions for you. Listen carefully.

27 Have you had any drugs, alcohol or medicine that

1 would keep you from understanding what's going on in
2 court today?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Not to my knowledge, no. No.

4 THE COURT: Have you had enough time to speak to
5 your attorney?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Are you satisfied with his advice
8 and representation?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Do you understand the elements of
11 the offense charged?

12 THE DEFENDANT: I do, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Do you understand the maximum
14 penalty?

15 THE DEFENDANT: I do, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Do you understand the evidence the
17 State says it has against you?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Do you understand that by pleading
20 guilty, you are giving up your right to a jury trial?

21 THE DEFENDANT: I do, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Do you also understand you are
23 giving up your right to confront and cross examine
24 the witnesses against you, with the help of your
25 attorney?

26 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

27 THE COURT: Do you also understand that you're

1 giving up your right against self-incrimination?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Is anybody forcing you or
4 threatening you to plead guilty?

5 THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: You understand that if you're not a
7 citizen of the United States, your conviction might
8 lead to your exclusion from the United States, your
9 deportation or denial of naturalization privileges?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: You understand that as a result of
12 your conviction, you will be a felon, and you'll have
13 to give a DNA sample to the State?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: You understand that once I accept
16 your plea, you cannot take it back without my
17 permission?

18 THE DEFENDANT: I do, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Do you want me to accept your plea?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Are the facts claimed by the State's
22 attorney, correct?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Does either counsel know of any
25 reason I shouldn't accept the plea?

26 ATTY. SHAY: No, Your Honor.

27 ATTY. FORD: No, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: I'll make a finding that the plea is
2 made knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily, with
3 assistance of competent counsel. There is an
4 adequate factual basis for the plea. The plea of
5 guilty is accepted. Finding of guilt may enter.

6 I'm ordering a presentence investigation report.
7 Date for that, please?

8 THE CLERK: Would you like four weeks or six
9 weeks, Your Honor?

10 THE COURT: Six weeks.

11 ATTY. FORD: Yeah, that's fine, Your Honor.
12 Whatever. That takes us to May sometime.

13 THE CLERK: May 3rd, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. PSI for May 3rd.

15 ATTY. FORD: Will that be for sentencing?

16 THE COURT: Yes.

17 ATTY. FORD: Any chance we can get the Friday of
18 that week, on the 6th?

19 THE COURT: All right. Well, I -- Judge
20 Comerford's not in on Fridays.

21 ATTY. FORD: Right, okay. That's fine. The 3rd
22 is fine.

23 THE COURT: May 3rd. You're going to have to go
24 to probation. Cooperate with the preparation of the
25 presentence investigation report.

26 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, thank you.

27 THE COURT: All right. Anything else,

1 gentlemen?

2 ATTY. FORD: No, Your Honor.

3 ATTY. SHAY: No, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

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NO: FST-CR100124859T; : SUPERIOR COURT
FST-CR100170818T:
STATE OF CONNECTICUT : G.A. # 1
v. : AT STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
ALPHAH EAST : MARCH 22, 2016

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription of the audio recording of the above-referenced case, heard in Superior Court, G.A. # 1, Stamford, Connecticut, before the Honorable Gary White, Judge, on the 22nd day of March, 2016.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2016 in Norwalk,
Connecticut.



Linda Vanek
Court Recording Monitor

EXHIBIT C

to

AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS J. MARTIN

NO: FST-CR10-0124859-T
FST-CR10-0170818-T

: SUPERIOR COURT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

: GA #01

V.

: AT STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

ALPHAH EAST

: JUNE 7, 2016

BEFORE THE HONORABLE RICHARD COMERFORD, JUDGE

A P P E A R A N C E S:

Representing the State of Connecticut:

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AAG JACK WHELAN
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Representing the Defendant:

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Recorded By:
Lauren Bedoya

Transcribed By:
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Court Recording Monitor
123 Hoyt Street
Stamford, Connecticut 06905

1 THE COURT: Gentleman, we have the matter of
2 State of Connecticut versus Alphah East and the
3 matter is set down or sentencing. The Court has
4 reviewed the presentence investigation. And if
5 everybody just for the monitor would identify
6 themselves for the record, so that we know who's
7 representing whom in the matter?

8 ATTY SHAY: For the record, Your Honor, Kevin
9 Shay, for the State. And with me is Jack Whelan for
10 the State, as well.

11 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

12 ATTY. FORD: Good morning, Your Honor. Daniel
13 Ford, on behalf of Mr. East, who is standing beside
14 me.

15 THE COURT: All right. Has everybody had an
16 opportunity to see the presentence investigation?

17 ATTY SHAY: Yes, Your Honor.

18 ATTY. FORD: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Is there any substantial changes
20 from the State's point of view?

21 ATTY SHAY: No, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Ford, we've had some lengthy
23 discussion this morning about certain parts of the
24 PSI, which you have explained to the Court. Is there
25 anything of substance you wish to change?

26 ATTY. FORD: Just on the page one the -- his
27 address. Updating his address it's 73 Myrtle Street,

1 Meriden, Connecticut 06451.

2 THE COURT: Very well. Thank you very much. I
3 appreciate you doing that. All right. Mr. Shay, you
4 want to go ahead? This is a cap sentence in the
5 matter --

6 ATTY SHAY: Yes, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: -- as I understand it, five two
8 three cap with a right to argue. So go ahead, Mr..
9 Shay.

10 ATTY SHAY: That's correct, Your Honor. On --
11 on March 22nd the defendant pled guilty to a single
12 count of bribe receiving. The State's -- the
13 agreement that we reached with the defendant on that
14 day was a cap of five after two with three years'
15 probation. We did agree to a right to argue, but I
16 was candid with counsel at that time that I felt that
17 five after two really struck a balance in this case
18 and was an appropriate recommendation. But of
19 course, it's not an exact science so we wanted to
20 give him an opportunity to put what he had to put on
21 the record.

22 The facts, Your Honor, this goes back to 2009
23 and 2010. During all times relevant the de -- the
24 defendant was a probation officer employed by the
25 State of Connecticut. He was assigned to the case of
26 Michelle Laurita. Ms. Laurita was a woman who had
27 been convicted on drug charges. She was put on

1 probation. Mr. East was her probation officer.

2 During the course of his monitoring her -- her
3 -- he became -- began a relationship with her father
4 during which he received seven checks totaling
5 thirteen thousand five hundred dollars, which were
6 styled as loans. He was ultimately the -- the father
7 contacted authorities and they set up a phone
8 conversation between the defendant and Mr. Laurita.

9 And during the phone conversation they agreed to
10 one final payment of five thousand dollars. And Mr.
11 East assured Mr. Laurita that his daughter's
12 probation would be terminated and that he could take
13 care of that. They met at Starbucks, the money was
14 exchanged and that's what's led us to today.

15 The -- the -- what really sets this defendant
16 apart from -- from your average citizen is his
17 position, his position of trust. And it's fair to
18 say that aside from that what you have is an
19 individual like so many who have mental and emotional
20 issues that were -- were untreated that he tried to
21 do that -- he treated it -- tried to treat it
22 himself.

23 Sadly as a probation officer he was probably
24 more familiar than the average person in terms of the
25 help that was available. And I'm sure he deeply
26 regrets not seeking the help at that time. But that
27 being said, the reason why this is not a -- we're not

1 asking for five years or ten years, Your Honor, is
2 because we believe that -- that his lack of criminal
3 history up to this point and the fact that the -- the
4 fact that the activity seems to be -- to have stemmed
5 from this addiction to the narcotics, which is so
6 common, we felt that some mitigation was appropriate.

7 With that being said, Your Honor, the trust --
8 when trust is broken by a public official that trust
9 has to be restored and repaired in some way, which is
10 what makes him different from other individuals. He
11 was in a position to do a lot of good, but he's also
12 -- was in a position to do a lot of harm to the
13 people's faith in -- in our system. And the faith in
14 our system is what makes it work.

15 And despite what -- the way that the last couple
16 of years -- you know, have been -- certainly a lot of
17 people have been outspoken about their mistrust of
18 the system. I would say by and large we enjoy a
19 great deal of -- of faith in our system. And it's
20 instances like this that really jeopardize that. So
21 I do feel a period of incarceration is warranted; is
22 necessary. And the probation, the PSI -- the
23 recommendation in the PSI is for a period of
24 incarceration.

25 And I think that's because people in a position
26 of public trust have to know and have to continue to
27 believe that if they engage in this kind of behavior

1 the consequences will be severe. And I think that
2 the -- the public needs to know that because the --
3 that -- the deterrence that comes from that helps
4 bolster the faith that we need in our system for
5 everything to work.

6 So with that, like I said, we did agree to a
7 right to argue, but I -- I do feel like we tried to
8 -- we were really trying to balance -- you know, no
9 two briberies are the -- are -- are the same. No two
10 individuals are the same. We try look at all of the
11 circumstances in this case, Your Honor. And we felt
12 that five after two was an appropriate balance
13 between taking into the consideration his life and
14 his unique circumstances, but also trying to do
15 something to restore the public trust.

16 THE COURT: Thank you very much. Well said,
17 sir. Mr. Ford?

18 ATTY. FORD: Thank you, Your Honor. I just -- I
19 know I did discuss that there were some other letters
20 from family members that were submitted that I don't
21 think is -- reached the Court as of yet. So I'd --

22 THE COURT: I -- I -- my understanding is there
23 was a letter from his mom that was submitted. And I
24 take it from the context of the PSI and from what you
25 have told me that letter would be very supportive.
26 And there was also a letter from Ms. Lesser that was
27 submitted to the file.

1 ATTY. FORD: I have that, Your Honor. If I can
2 approach your clerk with that?

3 THE COURT: And I'm familiar with Ms. Lesser, of
4 course. If I could take a look at that just a
5 second? Just give me one second, sir.

6 (PAUSE)

7 THE COURT: All right. I have read the letter
8 Ms. Lesser wrote of June 7, 2016. The record will
9 reflect she's in the courtroom. I'm familiar with
10 Ms. Lesser from prior work in the system at a
11 different courthouse. She's a very fine woman and I
12 appreciate the import. The letter has been
13 submitted. Go ahead, Mr. Ford.

14 ATTY. FORD: Thank you very much, Your Honor.
15 I'd also note for the record that my client's mother
16 is also present in the courtroom and she's been to
17 I'd say all of his court appearances, maybe not his
18 arraignment. But -- and maybe she missed one, but
19 she has been a source of support for my client, as
20 well.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 ATTY. FORD: Your Honor, I know the Court was
23 privy to the presentence investigation, but if I can
24 provide a little more background again. He was born
25 on Christmas Day 1977. He's thirty-eight years old.
26 He was born in Brewster, New York, raised in western
27 Massachusetts.

1 He was lucky enough to be a talented athlete,
2 obtained an athletic scholarship to play basketball
3 at a -- in Kansas at a colleague junior college.
4 Thereafter he transferred to Quinnipiac University,
5 then known as Quinnipiac College, and played for Joe
6 DeSantis in Hamden.

7 Upon graduation he worked some odd jobs, but he
8 was lucky enough to obtain employment as a Judicial
9 Marshal, then Bail Commissioner, and then as a
10 probation officer. Up until then it looked like he
11 had the world on this -- on a string. Unfortunately
12 as the Court has -- has seen time and time again, and
13 I'm sure the State's Attorney would agree with me, in
14 2008 he had an injury to his back. He was prescribed
15 an opiate pain medication and that is the day I
16 believe that his life began to leave the rails.

17 We don't know and we can't predict -- I'm sure
18 doctors can't predict when they prescribe such a
19 strong powerful medication who the switch is going to
20 be flipped on and whose the switch is not, it's going
21 to be left off. Individuals can take opiates and
22 pain medication for two weeks and be done. Other
23 individuals take a single opiate and they're hooked,
24 a lifelong nightmare ensues. The doctors don't have
25 crystal ball. They can't tell and it continues to be
26 prescribed.

27 My client in preparing for sentencing provided

1 me a lot of medical information, a lot of background
2 about himself and about six volumes worth. And I
3 went through it all and -- and in it he must have
4 gotten it from one of the treatment facilities he
5 attended.

6 And it's a quotation from Portia Nelson who was
7 an actress in the twentieth century and a -- an
8 American writer. And she has -- and I -- when I read
9 it I don't know why paused. There was some much. I
10 was kind of leafing through it. And I read it and I
11 -- and I really kind of thought -- I thought of my
12 client. And I'm in the unusual situation I think for
13 an attorney. Well I -- I've represented clients for
14 long period of times, but not in the criminal
15 setting. It seem -- it seems to be -- you know, less
16 the -- the length of representation isn't long. And
17 so I've known Mr. East for almost seven years. I've
18 known his mother just as much, a little less.

19 And so some of the steps that he's -- he's taken
20 to gain his sobriety I've been there side by side
21 with him. So when I -- I read this it really did
22 kind of strike me in -- in that it applied to him.
23 And it says chapters of my life. Chapter one, I
24 walked down the side walk, fell into a deep hole. I
25 couldn't get out and I couldn't figure out why. It
26 wasn't my fault. It took a long time to get out.

27 Chapter two, I walked down the side walk and I

1 fell into the same hole again. I couldn't
2 understand. It was not my fault. I really had to
3 struggle to get out. Chapter three, I walk down the
4 sidewalk and fell into the same hole again. This
5 time I understood why and it was my fault. This time
6 it was easier to get out. Chapter four, I walked
7 down the sidewalk and saw the same big hole. I
8 walked around it and I didn't fall into that hole.
9 In Chapter five I chose another sidewalk.

10 And he -- at the time when he was prescribed
11 that medication, when we engaged in the conduct in
12 which he pled guilty he did not realize the hole in
13 which he was digging himself. By January of 2010
14 he's incarcerated. He's terminated from the branch.
15 Upon -- upon making a bond -- his family took him a
16 little while, I think about ten days, to come up with
17 some bond money to get him out. He found himself
18 homeless. He was put out of his marital home. His
19 wife divorced him. She served him while he was
20 incarcerated.

21 Back in 2008 the signs were already there. His
22 family were observing his conduct, the nodding off.
23 They -- they had an intervention at Thanksgiving in
24 2008 saying what's going -- you've got to get a grip
25 of yourself. This is a more than year before he was
26 arrested. His employer spoke to him at a -- on a
27 number of occasions. He was offered the employee

1 assistance plan, but I -- I -- it's very difficult to
2 counsel individuals who are in the grips of
3 addiction.

4 Between today and the -- and the date in which
5 he was arrested and arraigned -- well strike that.
6 After he was released on bond, Your Honor, he spent
7 about six to seven months homeless. And on one
8 particular night he came across a police officer,
9 asked him what he was doing, where he was going. The
10 -- the police officer, according to my client, gave
11 him his phone, had him call his mother. His mother
12 came down and got him into a hotel and the very next
13 day he went into Connecticut Valley Hospital. And
14 from that day forward he's -- hasn't had a single
15 drug in his system. He's been clean since then.

16 After successfully completing Connecticut Valley
17 Hospital he went to Rushford for aftercare, the APT
18 Foundation, Yale University for treatment, Saint
19 Francis. And as the PSI indicates he -- there is a
20 dual diagnosis bi-polar and ADHD. He currently
21 treats at the Community Health Center in Meriden. He
22 has neuropathy in his feet from all the years of
23 playing basketball.

24 Now shifting towards the offense conduct, Your
25 Honor, and I agree with the State Michelle Laurita,
26 she's on probation, he was his [sic] probation
27 officer. Joseph Laurita, her father, the victim in

1 this -- in this case, it seems that their
2 relationship developed and became more of a friendly
3 relationship. Alphah worked with his daughter and he
4 would check in on her to see how she was doing.

5 He was doing so well that he wrote Ed Conway,
6 the supervisor at the time, a letter. And I quote,
7 this is from -- Joe Laurita's words. Alphah East has
8 worked extremely hard on this case and I want you
9 know that it was -- that if it were not for his
10 unbelievable commitment to Michelle's wellbeing I do
11 not think she would be nearly at the point she is at
12 today. And then it continues. When my daughter's
13 finally clean and sober I will give much of the
14 credit to Alphah.

15 Again it continues. I cannot stress enough how
16 important Alphah has been in this process. Michelle
17 has made -- I'm sorry -- the -- in the progress
18 Michelle has made since she started probation. And
19 then finally, I have a lot of respect for Alphah and
20 I am thankful that Michelle has had the opportunity
21 to work with someone as caring, understanding and
22 smart as he is.

23 However, at the -- at the same time that letter
24 was written Alphah was really going through the same
25 things that his daughter was doing. In desperation
26 to feed his own growing reliance on opiate pain
27 medication Alphah asked Joe Laurita for money. And

1 he did so up to seven times.

2 Under the guise and the evidence would've shown
3 that it started off as a loan. The checks said loan
4 on them. The text messages between Mr. Laurita and
5 Mr. East all were a -- an exchange of promises. He
6 would agree to pay for them in exchange for the
7 money. Mr. Laurita, a sophisticated business man,
8 runs several apparel companies. At the time had two
9 homes, one in Westport and one outside Los Angeles.
10 He knows how to make a buck and he knows how to get
11 what he paid for.

12 He told police officers that his relationship
13 with -- with Mr. East began to change at this time
14 when he gave him the money. Well, of course. He
15 gave him money. He -- he must have had some inkling
16 as to -- to know what he was doing was wrong. Alphah
17 for sure knew what he was doing wrong and that's why
18 he entered a guilty plea. I was prepared to try the
19 case. He was not. He was concerned. And he --
20 viewing this sentencing as part of his -- his growth
21 and addressing his substance abuse and the steps that
22 go along with it.

23 Again, I was prepared to try the case. In my
24 estimation it appeared that Mr. Laurita may have been
25 grooming Alphah. And I thought it was always curious
26 as a piece of evidence that when Mr. Laurita didn't
27 get what he wanted and -- and began to think that oh,

1 maybe he's never going to pay me instead of calling
2 Ed Conway, a phone number he had, an address he had,
3 he'd contacted him before, he calls his attorney who
4 calls the police and says hey his client is being
5 shaken down, which wasn't necessarily accurate if you
6 -- if you -- if you were able to look at the texts
7 and the conversations the two had.

8 What happened next, they set up a sting. The
9 five thousand dollar check is presented. There's a
10 recorded conversation where Mr. Laurita says hey for
11 five thousand bucks you've got to help me with that
12 probation. Alphah at the time was completely hooked
13 on opiate -- on -- on opiate medication, Your Honor.
14 I don't think -- he -- he would've agreed with anyone
15 on the phone that day saying anything. He just was
16 such in a desperate space to get money so he could
17 fulfill his addiction.

18 At a trial Mr. Laurita did not want to testify.
19 He had to be compelled. They had to -- the State had
20 to go to California and compel his appearance. When
21 probation contacted him he said call back. They
22 called back. They were -- they were never able to
23 talk to him.

24 What has Alphah been doing since his arrest?
25 And it's been a considerable amount of time. He's
26 completed several inpatient and outpatient programs.
27 Remarkably he's been able to -- to find work. Not

1 entirely consistent because the -- his experience has
2 been that he would find one particular job, work
3 there for six months and they would find out about
4 the pending case and they would either tell him he
5 can't work there anymore or they would just lay him
6 off without any further comment.

7 Currently he's working for Quest as a driver.
8 He's the -- they indicated that he's a valued
9 employee and if there is a period of incarceration
10 there'll be a job waiting for him upon his release.
11 People like him. Employees like him. He's loyal.

12 He has no criminal history, Your Honor. And --
13 and what's even -- I think he'd -- the Court and the
14 State would probably acknowledge in the past six
15 years the individuals facing the kind of struggles
16 that Mr. East has faced, not to be arrested again for
17 -- you know, a charge. Often times people who are
18 addicted and they're -- they're operating in the back
19 alleys and maybe they're fraudulently presenting
20 prescription pads or they're stealing from a store to
21 pay for drugs. None of that. No criminal arrests in
22 the last -- in the last six years.

23 Your Honor, as he stands here I know he -- he's
24 -- he's remorseful. I've talked to him about it.
25 Again, I was prepared to try the case. Although it's
26 not an Alford plea he understood that that phone call
27 was an important piece of evidence. And that's his

1 voice on -- on the -- on the telephone and he did not
2 deny that. And that a jury could've concluded that
3 that phone call met the elements of the crime
4 charged. And so based on that he indicated it'd be
5 my best idea to enter a plea and have a sentencing
6 rather than have a jury find him guilty.

7 Has he been promised -- has he been punished
8 here? He has. He's lost a great job and a -- with
9 all -- everyone's indication a very promising career.
10 He was incarcerated for a period of time where -- and
11 he was homeless. He was mugged and robbed.
12 Difficulty finding work he was divorced and as the in
13 -- the PSI indicates he lost the rights to his young
14 son. And the disin -- without being able to find
15 work he had to file bankruptcy in the Federal Court.

16 Certainly if he was not a probation officer I
17 think the Court would -- would take a different view.
18 I agree that state employees and probation officers,
19 police officers, lawyers, all -- all operate under
20 the public trust. There's no doubt about that. But
21 I think the Court has to look at the broad spectrum
22 of where does this conduct lie along with others that
23 have been convicted of similar -- of the similar
24 crime.

25 A few years ago a State's Attorney was convicted
26 of -- of stealing money, eighty-five thousand
27 dollars. Twenty-two month sentence. Compare that to

1 more recently a former United States Attorney here in
2 Connecticut was sentenced to thirty days to serve and
3 home confinement for stealing more than six hundred
4 thousand dollars from a -- from a client. So it's
5 difficult to -- where on -- where on the spectrum
6 does -- does it fall.

7 I stand before the Court asking for a short
8 period of incarceration. No more than a month -- no
9 -- no more than twelve months. I think that would be
10 more than sufficient to send a message to any other
11 probation officer or bail commissioner that might be
12 engaged or might -- may consider engaging in similar
13 conduct. Was this conduct wrong? Absolutely.
14 Should he have been fired? For sure. No doubt about
15 it. The term criminal -- when we heard the tape and
16 the conversation between Mr. Laurita and Mr. East --
17 and he acknowledges that and he's here before the
18 Court for that reason.

19 And I'll -- I'll finish my comments, Your Honor.
20 In my conversations with my client he really views
21 this sentencing as probably one of the last things
22 that he has to kind of go through to put his former
23 life behind him and move forward with his life. In
24 other words, he's looking to move on to chapter five,
25 choose another sidewalk, get off the old side walk.
26 He's still on it.

27 And hopefully with the conclusion of today's

1 proceedings any period of incarceration when he --
2 when he's released I -- I'd be -- I would be shocked
3 if he had any problems on probation. Shocked.

4 There'll be a restitution order. I know that
5 he's going to do everything he can to pay it. But
6 with a convention like this on a -- on his -- on his
7 history I think work might be a -- might -- might be
8 an issue for him going forward. But I -- I -- I know
9 the type of person he is. He's going to do
10 everything that he can to comply with the Court's
11 order.

12 So for that, Your Honor, for the -- everything I
13 -- I've said I ask the Court to consider five years
14 suspended after twelve months, three years of
15 probation. No objection to the -- any special
16 conditions the Court would impose.

17 THE COURT: Does he wish to say anything?

18 ATTY. FORD: I believe he does.

19 MR. EAST: Yes, Your Honor.

20 ATTY. FORD: Briefly, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Go ahead, sir.

22 MR. EAST: Good afternoon, Your Honor. I'd just
23 like to express my remorse. I understand I took an
24 oath and I needed to abide by that. I was in the
25 depths of addiction trying to balance things. I was
26 overwhelmed. A lot like the chapters as I got more
27 sober I started to be able to reflect back and see

1 that I made poor choices. And I understand that
2 those choices carry consequences.

3 By no means I've lived with his every day.
4 There's been days that I cry in the shower. Coming
5 to court never gets easy. It gets harder for me
6 every time. I've relived this every day since the
7 day I was arrested. I'm extremely sorry and I
8 apologize for all of my conduct. Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Anything else from anybody else?

10 ATTY. FORD: No, Your Honor.

11 ATTY SHAY: Just Your Honor, I neglected to
12 mention the conditions that were --

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 ATTY SHAY: -- recommended by the pro --

15 THE COURT: Ms. Lesser, did you wish to add
16 anything to the letter that you --

17 MS. LESSER: May I, sir?

18 THE COURT: Please.

19 MS. LESSER: May I come forward?

20 THE COURT: Go ahead. Come on. Yes, ma'am.
21 Please if you'd just for the record identify yourself
22 and then go ahead.

23 MS. LESSER: My name is Jill Lesser. Thank you
24 for reading my letter and thank you for your kind
25 words, sir.

26 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

27 MS. LESSER: I personally feel that I fell down

1 on this. I feel a great deal of remorse. I retired
2 in June of '09. If I been on the scene as a
3 probation -- active probation supervisor I would've
4 stepped up far more. The Judicial Department did not
5 step up. CSSD, William Carbone, did not respond as
6 he should've appropriately for a valued probation
7 officer.

8 Alphah had a wonderful history. I was proud to
9 be his supervisor. And I personally feel a great
10 deal of remorse for this. I wish I had still been
11 working. I was in Israel at the time. Thank you for
12 hearing me and thank you for your indulgences.

13 THE COURT: I appreciate you coming in, ma'am.
14 Okay. You know, we talk about sidewalks and finding
15 a new sidewalk. There's also called a road to
16 perdition, at least in my mind. I mean, these are
17 serious matters. I spent a lot of time, as you know,
18 up in the Bridgeport area and I did a lot of work
19 with jury tampering and hindering prosecution, bribe
20 receiving and what not during my time up there. It
21 troubles the heck out of me these kinds of cases.

22 We have an obligation to the people. We all
23 have an obligation to the people. Not just the
24 judge, not just lawyers, everybody has an obligation
25 to the people to advance the common good. We have an
26 obligation to serve the people and advance the common
27 good.

1 Personal responsibility is gone from our society
2 today. It's just gone. There's never any personal
3 responsibility when somebody's sick, somebody's
4 psychiatrically disabled, somebody has psychological
5 problems, somebody has physical problems, somebody
6 has this, somebody has -- what about the obligation
7 to act as a good human being out there to advance
8 society and do the people's work, which we are all on
9 board to do.

10 We've gotten so politically correct in our
11 society today that we have forgotten our obligation
12 to advance the people's work. That's what we've come
13 to. That's what our brilliant professors at college
14 teach all of our children, lack of personal
15 responsibility for any and all. We must explore. We
16 must experience. You must learn. Nobody talks about
17 obligations in our society today. It's terribly
18 distressing. It's terribly disconcerting. That's
19 what we've come to in society today.

20 This is a matter most serious. This is crime
21 most serious. You're entrusted in a special way with
22 the power of the people. And irrespective of what
23 the cause is we've violated that trust. We're
24 endangering the very system that has been developed
25 to protect the good of the people. It is a very,
26 very serious matter indeed.

27 Now the measure of the man, I understand

1 everything that's been said. You have been very
2 good. You, Mr. Ford, have provided me with all kinds
3 of information. I know the difficulties the man has
4 had. I'm not unaware of that. I am aware of that.

5 These two good men took that into consideration
6 when they were formulating a possible disposition of
7 the case. There's been a lot of discussion here. I
8 give them a lot of credit as representatives of the
9 people that they tried to factor into this cap
10 sentence a lot of what you talked about. And I think
11 that we've spent an enormous amount of time talking
12 about these things and analyzing these things.

13 I mean, you've got three really fine men and
14 lawyers here working on a disposition of the case
15 that tried to consider the history of the man and the
16 difficulties he's been through; some of the good
17 things, some of the bad things. They factored all of
18 that into the cap sentence that's to be imposed. So
19 that -- the measure of the man has been taken here.
20 There's no question about deterrence and
21 denunciation. The blame lies at his feet and his
22 feet alone.

23 I'm not sure how the evidence would have worked
24 out at time of trial. I'm not sure whether all of
25 the elements of the crime could've been proven beyond
26 a reasonable doubt, but I agree with your analysis.
27 You're a very fine defense lawyer. I agree with your

1 analysis. The likelihood is here it was more likely
2 than not that based upon that telephone call there
3 would have been guilt proven beyond a reasonable
4 doubt.

5 So denunciation and blame lies at his feet. He
6 acknowledges that. I give him credit for that. He
7 does acknowledge that. The rehabilitation, I mean
8 he's been partially through that in the various
9 sidewalks as you have described them or chapters.
10 He's trying to do the best he can in getting his life
11 back together. Hopefully he will avail himself of
12 some of the counseling that's going to be provided to
13 him through the Department of Corrections and get on
14 with his life.

15 There are certain advantages he's had in his
16 life, certain privileges he's had because he was a
17 very good athlete and -- and took advantage of that.
18 But there are certain faults that lie within his
19 character that we all have. I'm not going to cast
20 the first stone by any stretch at all. I mean, I
21 know what my limitations are. Believe me I know what
22 that road to perdition is. I've been on the wrong
23 sidewalks in my life. I've been there. We all have.

24 Fortunately for most of us as we get a little
25 older we start to move in the right direction and I
26 -- I think he's starting to get there. And he's
27 suffered a great deal as a result of the difficulties

1 he has had. There's no question about it. But
2 they've -- the real driver of the case is the
3 protection of the common good as I started my
4 comments off with here.

5 I mean, we just can't -- we can't have this kind
6 of nonsense in society. Judges can't do this,
7 lawyers can't do this, police officers can't do this,
8 probation officers can't do this. These guys can't
9 do this. They serve me every day. They're good
10 people. They don't violate their trust in me. And
11 if they do, if they make a mistake they come in and
12 apologize to me.

13 But we all have obligations that we must
14 fulfill. We all must advance that common good that's
15 so important to all of this. This is not a breach of
16 peace case. It's not a disorderly conduct case.
17 This is the real deal. We have breached the public
18 trust. We have breached our fiduciary obligation to
19 the very people that we serve.

20 A period of incarceration is warranted in this
21 case as a result thereof so that a message is sent
22 that the people of the State of Connecticut do care
23 about these things and can't tolerate these things.
24 So the sentence is imposed in the context of what I
25 said and taking into consideration those criteria.

26 So with that said, on the underlying charge I
27 will commit him to the custody of the Commissioner of

1 Corrections for a period of five years. Execution
2 will be suspended after eighteen months. He's placed
3 on three years' probation.

4 The conditions of probation will be restitution
5 in the amount of thirteen thousand five hundred
6 dollars. Substance abuse evaluation, treatment and
7 counseling including random urines and inpatient
8 treatment if necessary. Psychological/psychiatric
9 treatment and counseling as may be required and he
10 needs to abide by any pharmaceutical regimen that his
11 treatment providers think is necessary in light of
12 the difficulties he's had.

13 He's to have no contact with the victim or the
14 victim's family in this case. And he's to abide by
15 any other reasonable conditions imposed by Adult
16 Probation during his probationary period. So the
17 total effective sentence will be five after eighteen
18 months three, subject to the conditions outlined by
19 the Court.

20 I'll be -- close by saying I was very impressed
21 with the way the lawyers handled themselves in this
22 case. Everybody worked hard. You're good men and I
23 give you a lot of credit for all of the things we've
24 talked about here today. It's not easy to do. It's
25 not easy to deal with the man's life in the context
26 in which it was presented to the Court, but you all
27 did a very fine job in that regard. Is there

1 anything else anybody would like to say?

2 ATTY. WHELAN: Yes, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Please.

4 ATTY. WHELAN: There is a sec -- there is a
5 second file pending. The charges -- all of the
6 charges in that file are nolled.

7 THE COURT: All right. Very well. Nolles noted
8 with regard to the balance. Any -- anything else?

9 ATTY. FORD: Two things, Your Honor. He has
10 been handed a copy of the -- the pardons brochure.

11 THE COURT: The clerk --

12 THE CLERK: Yes, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: -- are you going to hand him that or
14 will hand him that shortly.

15 ATTY. FORD: He has it. Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Great.

17 ATTY. FORD: And finally, Your Honor, I know
18 there's fees and costs associated with probation.
19 Would the Court consider waiving those?

20 THE COURT: In light of all of the circumstances
21 he's been through I'll waive costs and fees.

22 ATTY. FORD: Thank you very much, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay? Good luck to you, sir.

24 MR. EAST: Thank you, Your Honor.

NO: FST-CR10-0124859-T
FST-CR10-0170818-T

: SUPERIOR COURT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

: GA #01

V.

: AT STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

ALPHAH EAST

: JUNE 7, 2016

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription of the audio recording of the above-referenced case, heard in Superior Court, Judicial District of Stamford/Norwalk at Stamford, Connecticut, before the Honorable RICHARD Comerford, Judge, on June 7, 2016.

Dated July 26, 2016 in Stamford, Connecticut.



Lauren Bedoya
Court Recording Monitor